a1 cont'l

public network, wherein the client workstation cannot initialize communication with the surveillance cameras.

a2

4. (Amended) The system of Claim 3, wherein said one or more surveillance cameras produce composite NTSC video signals, and wherein the camera server is operable to capture the NTSC video signals and convert the captured NTSC video signals.

a3

13. (Amended) The system of Claim 31 wherein upon the receipt of data identifying an occurrence of an event, said off-site server is operative to send a text page to one or more recipients alerting said one or more recipients of the occurrence of said event.

16. (Amended) A centralized video surveillance and monitoring system, comprising:

an image database for storing video images; and

at least one server, said at least one server being coupled to a private network that enables communication with surveillance cameras at a plurality of geographically distinct client sites and to a public network, said at least one server being operative to initialize communications between the surveillance cameras and at least one off-site client workstation coupled to said public network, to coordinate the retrieval of video images from said surveillance cameras, to produce said retrieved video images as live images to the at least one client workstation, and to archive said retrieved video images in said image database for subsequent production to at least one client workstation coupled to said public network, wherein the client workstation cannot initialize communication with the surveillance cameras.

a4

17. (Amended) In an environment including at least one control server coupled to a private network that enables communication with surveillance cameras at a plurality of geographically distinct client sites and to a public network, wherein the public network cannot initialize communication with the surveillance cameras, a centralized video surveillance and monitoring method, comprising:

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a4 ∥ cancel

(a)   receiving video image data from a surveillance camera;

(b)   producing said received video image data as live images to at least on client workstation via the public network; and

(c)   archiving said received video image data in an image database for subsequent production to at least on client workstation.

a5

27.   (Amended) In an environment including at least one control server coupled to a private network that enables communication with surveillance cameras at a plurality of geographically distinct client sites, a method in a client workstation for retrieving and viewing video images, captured by said surveillance cameras, that are stored in an image database by the at least one server, comprising:

(a)   receiving computer program logic from a server that enables the client workstation to display a graphical user interface that includes a plurality of client-site elements representative of a corresponding plurality of geographically distinct client sites, wherein each of said plurality of client-site elements are associated with one or more camera elements representative of one or more cameras located at a client site represented by said client-site element, wherein said server has access to an image database that stores video image data capture by cameras at a plurality of geographically distinct client sites;

(b)   receiving a command from a user to select from a first camera element representative of a first camera at a first client site;

(c)   sending a request to a server for retrieval of video image data, recorded by said first camera, that is archived in an image database; and

displaying said requested video image data in an image viewing window of said graphical user interface.

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31.   (New) The system of Claim 12, wherein the server is further operative to send a notification corresponding to an event processing parameter in the configuration file.

32.   (New) The system as recited in Claim 14 wherein the server is further operative to associated time-zone offset to the real-time video data, the time-zone offset corresponding to a time-zone offset parameter in the configuration file.

33.   (New) The system of Claim 14, wherein the server is further operative to control the retrieval of real time video data corresponding to a time parameter in the configuration file.

34.   (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the server is further operative to generate a camera control code instructing one or more of these surveillance cameras to move to a predefined position.

35.   (New) The system of Claim 26, wherein the server is further operative to generate the camera control code after a designated period of time.

36.   (New) The system of Claim 35, wherein the server is further operative to generate a series of camera control codes instructing one or more of the surveillance cameras to move to a series of predefined positions.

37.   (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the server is further operative to generate an interface for displaying real-time video image data from a plurality of client sites.

38.   (New) The system of Claim 37, wherein the interface is a Web-based interface.

39.   (New) The system of Claim 38, wherein the Web-based interface includes a calendar interface, wherein the calendar interface includes a number of hyperlinks, the hyperlinks corresponding to predefined periods of time and operable to generate additional screen interfaces corresponding to a time selection.

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40.   (New) The system of Claim 39, wherein the hyperlinks correspond to months in a year and wherein the hyperlinks are operable to generate additional screen interface is presenting a user with a selection of a particular time to control surveillance camera.

41.   (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the server is further operative to extract real-time video data from at least one surveillance camera utilizing dynamic block data management schema.

42.   (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein the date-time value includes a time-zone offset value.

43.   (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein performing a course of action based upon parameters in a configuration file include associated in time-zone offset to the video image data.

44.   (New) The method as reciting the method of Claim 23, further comprising generating at least one camera control code instructing one or more surveillance cameras to move to a pre-defined location.

45.   (New) The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein generating at least one camera control code includes generating a number of camera control codes instructing a surveillance camera to move to a series of pre-defined locations.

46.   (New) The method as recited in Claim 45, wherein generating at least one camera control code includes generating at least one camera control code after a designated time period has expired.

47.   (New) The method as recited in the method of Claim 23, wherein performing a course of action based on parameters in a configuration file include generating a user interface for displaying the video image data.

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48.   (New) The method of Claim 47, wherein the user interface is a Web-based user interface.

49.   (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the Web-based interface includes a calendar interface, wherein the calendar interface includes a number of hyperlinks, the hyperlinks corresponding to predefined periods of time and operable to generate additional screen interfaces corresponding to a time selection.

50.   (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein the hyperlinks correspond to months in a year and wherein the hyperlinks are operable to generate additional screen interfaces presenting the user with a selection of a particular time to control surveillance camera.

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